HE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER

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OLBROOK LIBRARY

FOREFATHERS' DAY
Sunday, November 22, 1959

A Message from the Moderator

On the four occasions in the past forty years when Mrs. Phillips and I have been on furlough in the United States we have visited many of the educational institutions which owe their existence in whole or in part to the Congregational Christian Churches. In addition to Carleton College and Yale, to whom I owe so much, they are a fine lot of outstanding schools of which we may justly be proud.

In the past few months I have been privileged to travel a good deal in the Rocky Mountain and Far West parts of the country. I have been deeply impressed by the amazing number of Congregationalists who have pulled up their stakes in the East and have migrated Westward. Scores of people in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and on the Pacific Coast have introduced themselves by stating that they have come from Massachusetts, or Connecticut, or elsewhere in the East. I have also been impressed by the number of beautiful, worshipful churches which were founded fifty years or more ago by Congregational folk who braved the rigors of the plains and mountains and founded these church organizations in far off California, Oregon, and Washington.

It must be an absorbing, even thrilling task to unravel the history of these Founding Fathers, who with rugged determination and courage carried their faith with them and laid new foundations so truly and well. It is a task the result of which must inspire the rest of us in these latter days to emulate their example, for the work must go on!

As a Missionary I would be remiss if I did not include in this message reference to those other Founding Fathers who traveled the seas and whose work in many foreign lands parallels that of the pioneers in the home land. It is altogether a great company whose record is well worth preserving.

RAY E. PHILLIPS

New Hampshire Seminary

The October issue of the Harvard College Library Bulletin contains a significant study by Prof. George A. Williams, Harvard Divinity School, entitled "Gilmanton Theological Seminary (1835-1848). A Representative Episode in the Cultural History of Northern New England." This is the only complete history available of the Theological Seminary in the Wilderness. The Society has on file a sermon on the same theme delivered at Gilmanton last year by Dr. Williams, which may be borrowed on request. As a classic example of the homiletic use of historical material on Forefathers' Sunday or at any time, we cordially commend this sermon by a Fellow of our Society. It got results! The Gilmanton Selectmen voted to build a moisture-proof annex for the preservation of the Gilmanton Archives including materials discovered by Prof. Williams in his research on The Gilmanton Academy and Seminary. History can be, and should be, effectively preached.

Ohio

The First Congregational Church in the Northwest Territory was organized at Marietta in 1796. Its organization and the settlement of Marietta were stimulated by Dr. Manasseh Cutler, pastor of Ipswich, Mass. Dr. Cutler led in the formation of The Ohio Land Company and enlisted the first band of settlers. The first pastor of the Marietta Church was Rev. Daniel Story, brought there by Dr. Cutler and ordained and installed by a Council meeting at Ipswich in 1796.

In 1797 Muskingum Academy was built in Marietta, the first educational structure in the Territory, and the predecessor of Marietta College.

The first settlement on the Western Reserve — that part of its charter claims "reserved" by Connecticut when it ceded its claims to the United States Government — was made on July 4, 1796, by a company led by Moses Cleveland.

The vast majority of the early Churches in the Western Reserve were founded under the "Plan of Union," a design for cooperation between Congregationalists and Presbyterians. Rev. Joseph Badger was the first great missionary in the area. He organized the first Plan of Union Church on the Reserve at Austinburg on October 24, 1801, and the second at Hudson the next year.

In age the fourth Congregational Church in Ohio is that at Shandon in the Southwest, organized by Welsh Congregationalists in 1803, the year Ohio became a state.

On June 23, 1852, representatives of the Churches met in Mansfield to organize the Ohio Congregational Conference.

WILLIAM A. SLATER, *Ohio Conference.*

Iowa Congregationalism Salutes Its Yankee Forefathers

They rate a super salvo. Make it three; one for the fathers, one for the mothers, and a third for the New England churches and seminaries. They were super "swarmers." The thrills of their missionary compulsion are still inspiring.

Unselfish they were. They shared their best laity and clergy with us. The seminaries were strong on the "go ye" of the Gospel. Yale heard the call of Illinois and recruited a Band of Prospectors. Churches soon dotted the prairies and Illinois College welcomed students, likewise Chicago Theological Seminary with Asa Turner sounding the trumpet.

Tidings from Asa Turner gave Andover Seminary students a concern for Iowa. Soon eleven seniors became an Iowa Band, each pledged to gather a church and together to found Iowa College. Turner had pushed on from Illinois to Iowa to help the New England settlement at Denmark found the first Congregational church west of the Father of Waters.

Soon the Andover recruits had gathered this side of the river and Gospel vibrations were felt in the spots selected by Prospector Turner. Interchurch fellowship was imperative. They met, they shared experience and prayed. At one meeting a dollar appeared on a table pledged to Iowa College. That dollar became dynamic.

Davenport seemed to be the best location. Negotiations became complicated. The alert founder of Grinnell, J. B. Grinnell, was ready with a solution. He had a dream college in his planning. Why not get together? Result: The Iowa Banders decided that Iowa College would look even better in the replica of a New England village with plenty of elms. Grinnell College it eventually became, now rated as belonging in the ten top Coeducational Liberal Arts Colleges in the U.S.A. Again we salute Asa Turner, the Iowa Band and Grinnell, Christian prospectors and builders of commonwealths.

Two hundred words do not suffice to sound the glories of these and other migrations of these and other forefathers whose achievements are deeply woven into the fabric of midwestern and national Congregationalism. For the fulness of that thrilling story I refer you to *Pilgrims of Iowa* by Truman O. Douglass and *The First Century of Iowa Congregationalism* by P. A. Johnson. They were our Pilots for a total of 56 years. Their accolades to our noble forefathers, lay and clerical, are still favorite gems for commencement speakers. Selah.

ROYAL J. MONTGOMERY
Iowa Conference Historian

Durham, N. H., The Community Church. Mrs. Heman C. Fogg.
Gorham, N. H., Mr. Homer Hamlin.
Farmington, N. H., Free Baptist Church. Mr. Henry Johnson.
Rye, N. H., Bethany Congregational Church. Mrs. Karl F. Grunert.
Cleveland, Ohio., Archwood Avenue Congregational Church. Mr. Wilbert Warnicke.
Mission Hill, S. D., Community Mission Hill Church. Mrs. Cora Van Osdel.
Dorset, Vt., United Church. Mr. Alfred Holley Gilbert.
Cheyenne, Wyoming. First Congregational Church. Maurine Carley.

Although only twenty percent of all our churches have historians, certain State Conferences noted below exceed this modest national average.

New York	45%	Florida	35%
Minnesota	44%	Rhode Island	30%
Connecticut	42%	Montana	30%
Iowa	40%	Vermont	27%
Massachusetts	36%	Indiana	25%

FACTS ABOUT THANKSGIVING

Colonial Thanksgiving Days

Governor William Bradford of the Massachusetts Colony was the founder of the Thanksgiving festival. As early as 1621 he called together the early settlers at Plymouth for the purpose of offering thanks to God for the preservation of their lives, food to sustain them, and clothing for their bodies. A man of strong religious convictions, Governor Bradford continued to call, periodically, seasons of thanksgiving. One of his earliest written manuscripts was entitled, "God's Merciful Dealings with us in the Wilderness."

"The Mayflower Compact is perhaps the only instance in human history of that positive, original social compact, which speculative philosophers have imagined as the only legitimate source of government."

JOHN Q. ADAMS

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History and Structure

The Congregational Christian Historical Society was founded in 1952 at Boston as a national organization under the inspired leadership of Frederick L. Fagley, of blessed memory. He served as Secretary in New York until his death in 1958, and left the Society well established. The office of the Society was moved to Boston early in 1959 with the election of Vaughan Dabney, Dean Emeritus of Andover Newton Theological School, as Secretary. The Board of Governors, Executive Committee and Officers consist of official representatives of such sponsoring and supporting agencies as the General Council, the Home and Foreign Boards, the State Conferences and Congregational Library, in addition to members at large. Selected scholars constitute the Fellows of the Society, one of whom, Professor Roland H. Bainton, Yale Divinity School, has prepared the following paragraph on the meaning and purpose of the Society. A growing list of 1,100 historians indicates the participation of local churches. The Society issues a quarterly *News Letter*, and makes available upon request important documents, church histories and anniversary programs. A new Research Assistant safeguards old records and files new accessions. Wide-spread financial support is essential if the Society is to meet the growing demands made upon it. Churches contributing $10, and individuals $5, become voting members; those giving less, are welcomed as associates. Such gifts are approved for Tax Income Credit. All donors, including historians and ministers, receive the quarterly *News Letter*. Checks may be payable to the Society.

Meaning and Purpose

The making of history and the recording of history are not incompatible. Witness the work of Winston Churchill. Indeed history is made with greater zest by one who takes the past as an example and with fewer errors if the past serves as a warning. Our Congregational history is one of the great chapters in the history of the Christian Church and in the history of our own land. The achievements and the contributions to the national life on the part of our church, even for that matter the aberrations, deserve to be recorded for our guidance. The first stage in any such process is to locate and preserve the written materials and the living memories of the past. The old church papers of New England are so important for our national history that the state governments are undertaking their collection and preservation. The churches themselves will have to care for materials of a less formal character such as the diaries of ministers, old letters and the like. Our society proposes to stimulate such efforts by the promotion of anniversary celebrations in the churches and by other means. These occasions invariably prompt the gleaning and

Before the Summer Appeal went out, the historic First Church in Newton, Massachusetts, 1664, sent a check for $63 for the work of the Society. Rev. Frank M. Weiskel is the minister, and Mr. Farnum Rockwood the historian.

The First Congregational Church, Passaic, N. J., Rev. Theodore W. Baltz, minister, will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year. The historian, Mr. Walter A. Bruning, has completed a history of the church up to the present date. A letter from Mr. Bruning indicated his interest in the work of the Society.

Anniversaries Next Year

Since forethought is required for proper planning, letters of congratulations with suggestions were sent during the summer to the 202 churches which in 1960 will observe important birthdays. Requests for sample programs and histories indicate wide interest. It is not possible to publish a list of these churches but a breakdown is in order. About one third of the celebrating churches will observe their 75th Anniversary. Twenty New England churches, including one from New York, are over 200 years old, three being established in 1635 — Stamford and Wethersfield in Connecticut and Newbury in Massachusetts. The following states have churches 25 years old — Hawaii, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Wyoming. Once more the Society salutes these churches and invites correspondence.

The Society and the Library

By action of the American Congregational Association, Rev. James H. Bradford of Andover, and Rev. Harold Worthley, Malden, have been appointed to the Board of Governors of the Society, thus emphasizing the cooperation of the Library and the Society in Boston.

Our Treasurer Honored

After fifteen years of service as Minister of the Rhode Island Conference, which were duly observed with gifts and honors, Dr. James H. Lightbourne, Sr., "retired" last June to enter upon active service as pastor of The Mount Union Larger Parish, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. We are happy to have the continuing services of our faithful treasurer, and extend to Dr. and Mrs. Lightbourne our best wishes in their fresh adventure. Their address is Everett, Pennsylvania, R.F.D. 3.

A Goodly Heritage

When Christians, moved by convictions, divide over vital issues, the role of those who call attention to and help to preserve the common heritage becomes increasingly vital. In these days when there is basic disagreement among Churches of the Congregational Christian order, a disagreement whose final results cannot at this time be foreseen, the Congregational Christian Historical Society is playing a truly Christian part through its reassuring statement that it seeks to serve all the Churches of our tradition.

I believe that I am expressing the thoughts of many in the Churches of the National Association, as well as my own thoughts, when I thank the Historical Society for the assurance freely given that the Library, the *News Letter*, and the interest of the Society itself, are available for all Churches of our order.

(Rev). Joseph J. Russell
National Association of
Congregational Christian Churches

New Historians

In addition to the new historians previously listed, the following names have been added, making a total of 47 for this year.

Long Beach, Calif., United Church. Mrs. Helen Brown.

Los Angeles, Calif., John M. Schaefle Memorial Congregational Church. Mrs. Walter Wiseman.

Sierra Madre, Calif., First Congregational Church. Mrs. Maybelle C. Barker.

Darien, Conn., United Church of West Norwalk. Mr. Charles A. Gardner.

Farmington, Conn., First Church of Christ. Mrs. Frederick Hurlburt.

Middletown, Conn., The South Church. Miss Gladys Clark.

South Windsor, Conn., First Congregational Church. Mrs. J. Watson Vibert.

Lake Worth, Fla., First Church. Miss Mabel Phelps.

Madeira Beach, Fla., The Church by the Sea. Mrs. T. Elmer Henderson.

Beardstown, Ill., First Congregational Church. Mrs. Gladys Richter.

Chicago, Ill., Warren Avenue Congregational Church. Mr. Martin C. Anderson.

Glen Ellyn, Ill., Faith Congregational Church. Mrs. Bruno Witkowski.

Assonet, Mass., First Christian Church. Mr. Benjamin R. Evans

Dorchester, Mass., Second Church. Miss Janet L. Robertson.

Fitchburg, Mass., Rollstone Congregational Church. Mr. Ralph K. Hubbard.

Ipswich, Mass., First Church in Ipswich. Mrs. Richard MacDougal.

Leominster, Mass., Pilgrim Church. Mrs. Ralph Foster.

Milton, Mass., First Congregational Church. Mrs. George C. Marsden.

Norwood, Mass., First Congregational Church. Miss Mildred Metcalf.

Bangor, Mich., First Congregational Church. Mrs. Louis Bregger.

Grant, Mich., Community Congregational Church. Mrs. Martha Brink.

Minneapolis, Minn., Chapel Hills Congregational Church. Mrs. Donald Powell.

Washington Congregationalism

Congregational history in Washington began 1836, when Dr. Marcus Whitman, his wife arcissa, and their associates, sent out by the nerican Board, settled at Waiilatpu near the esent city of Walla Walla. The sacrificial ork of the martyred Whitmans and the ardy missionary efforts at Tshimakain, north Spokane, by the Cushing Eells and the kanah Walter families laid Congregational d Presbyterian foundations in Eastern Washgton.

A new impetus was given the work of our llowship in 1859 when Dr. Eells returned to Vaiilatpu to found Whitman Seminary, which ter became Whitman College, and to spend any years in establishing and nurturing Conegational Churches.

Dr. George Atkinson, who made his headarters in Portland, served as guide, counsellor d finally as Missionary Superintendent to our veloping churches from 1848 to 1887. He d father Eells rank first among the "founding thers" of our Washington fellowship.

The middle period leaders, the Rev. T. W. Valters of Eastern Washington, the Rev. muel Green of the West coast and Superindent W. N. Scudder brought many new urches into the fellowship.

The coming of the Yale Band in 1891, comsed of the Reverends William Davies, J. T. ichols, G. E. Hooker, S. B. L. Penrose, L. O. ird and E. L. Smith, furnished the state a gh quality of leadership which has been rpetuated through the years.

Rapid church expansion again is taking place der the wise leadership of Supt. Archie Hook.

CLATON S. RICE
Former Superintendent

regon Centennials

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the ngregational Church in The Dalles, Oregon, d appropriate exercises are being conducted der the leadership of the minister, Rev. Fred Marron. The State of Oregon is also observ- the Centennial of its admission to the ion.

rly New England Worship

The Congregational Library Bulletin for uary 1958 contains an excellent article on The Worship of the First American Congreionalists" by Horton Davies, along with a iew of his latest book "Christian Worship: History and Meaning." See also the Library lletin for January 1959 which tells how Rev. ilip Gordon Scott, D.D., then minister of e Westmorland Congregational Church, shington, D.C., followed an early form of rship in a Forefathers' Day service. These lletins are of special interest at this season.

17th Century Churches

A list of these 85 existing churches, taken from the Year Book, by Rev. William G. McInnes, Minister of the First Congregational Church, Hampton, New Hampshire, founded in 1638, may be had by writing the Secretary.

The Care of Records

The earliest records (1746) of the Amicable Congregational Church, Tiverton, R. I., have recently been carefully preserved by silk processing, bound in covers and safely deposited in a vault. Further information may be had by writing Rev. Slade Innis, minister, or Mrs. Wardwell Leonard, historian. All church records are valuable and should be kept in a safe place.

Mary Dyer — Martyr Quaker

On June 1, 1660, Mary Dyer was hanged on Boston Common, because of her religious beliefs. In 1944 one of her descendants in Vermont left a sum of money to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to provide a suitable memorial. Finally, on July 9, 1959, a bronze statue of Mary Dyer was unveiled on the grounds near the East wing of the State House in Boston with Governor Furcolo participating. The sculptress was Sylvia Shaw Judson, Lake Forest, Illinois. A plaque bears these words of Mary Dyer — "My life not availeth in comparison to the liberty of the truth."

The Denison Worship Center

On Friday, April 17, 1959, a beautiful worship center in Pearson Hall, Mayflower House, Grinnell, Iowa, was impressively dedicated in loving memory of Warren Hathaway Denison. After retiring as Assistant Secretary of the General Council Dr. Denison gave himself wholeheartedly to the special ministry of stewardship, consisting of upwards of one thousand Every Member Canvasses. The lovely chancel appointments represent memorial gifts of relatives and friends, a worthy tribute to this ardent Apostle of Stewardship.

Honorable Mention

The United Church of West Norwalk, Connecticut, was constituted on October 7, 1956, and in 1958 appointed Mr. Charles A. Gardner as historian. He plans to keep in touch with the Society.

The Chapel Hills Congregational Church of Edina, Minnesota, held its first service on November 2, 1958, and officially organized on April 27, 1959. At this time the by-laws were adopted and new officers elected, including the church historian, Mrs. Donald Powell. The pastor is Rev. Owen W. Akers. At the present rate, the younger churches are setting the pace in appointing historians.

often the publication of local history. Activity of this kind over a period of another quarter or half a century will supply the raw material for comprehensive histories of our church, not only in New England but on the west coast, in the Hawaiian Islands and the mission fields. But these histories need not wait until everything is in. More material always comes in and a good history brings more. Then it must be rewritten. Our concern is to stimulate historians to engage in this unending endeavor.

THE FOREFATHERS AND THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

One way of honoring the past is by thus helping the Society:

1. Double the present number of 1,100 historians.
2. Triple the number of supporting churches (176) which would then represent only ten percent of our denominational parishes.
3. Set 171 individual donors over against our total membership of 1,400,000 and let our conscience be our guide.

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

In agreement with the vote of the General Council at New Haven, June 30, 1954, and according to custom, we set aside Sunday, November 22nd, as a time to gather together in thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God for our spiritual heritage. In the spirit of the Founding Fathers let us bravely face new occasions and new duties. "Turn those tracks toward Past or Future, that make Plymouth Rock sublime?"

FOREFATHERS' DAY PRAYER

O God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away: age after age the living seek thee, and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers, in their pilgrimage, walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion. Still to us, their children, be thou the cloud by day, the fire by night; where but in thee have we a covert from the storm or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and are ever nigh. In sorrow thy comfort renews our life. In prosperity and ease, it is thy spirit only that can wean us from pride and selfishness. O thou sole source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints, who have trusted in thee and have been left desolate. Not of our witness, but by thy tender mercy, hear our prayer; in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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